

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 20

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 10, 1947

Power of Words

By Walter E. Myer

YOU have been told, perhaps, that you do not need an extensive vocabulary, that you can get along without making use of an impressive array of words. This is true. You can get along, after a fashion, even though your vocabulary is severely limited. You can make your primitive wants known. You can express simple ideas. Children do it, and so can you if you are satisfied with the standards of childhood.

If, however, you do not have a rich vocabulary at your command you will condemn yourself to mediocrity in thinking, in speech, in personality and achievement. Words are the precision tools with which alone complex ideas can be fashioned and expressed with clarity and force. If you do not possess such tools you cannot speak concisely and forcefully. You cannot convey to others a clear impression of your thoughts or feelings.

If you are acquainted with few words you will overwork them. Your expressions, lacking variety, will be dull, repetitious, uninteresting. Your conversation will be tiresome and boring.

To escape from monotony in your speaking, you may turn, as so many do, to slang phrases. The slang expressions supply the color and variety for which everyone feels the need. There is, though, a peculiar fact about the use of slang. People adopt it because of their longing for something different, for new and novel ways of carrying on conversation. But once they take up a slang phrase, they often overwork it until it becomes as boring and monotonous as were the expressions for which it was substituted.

The only real relief from poor, anemic, lifeless speech is to be found in an enrichment of the vocabulary.



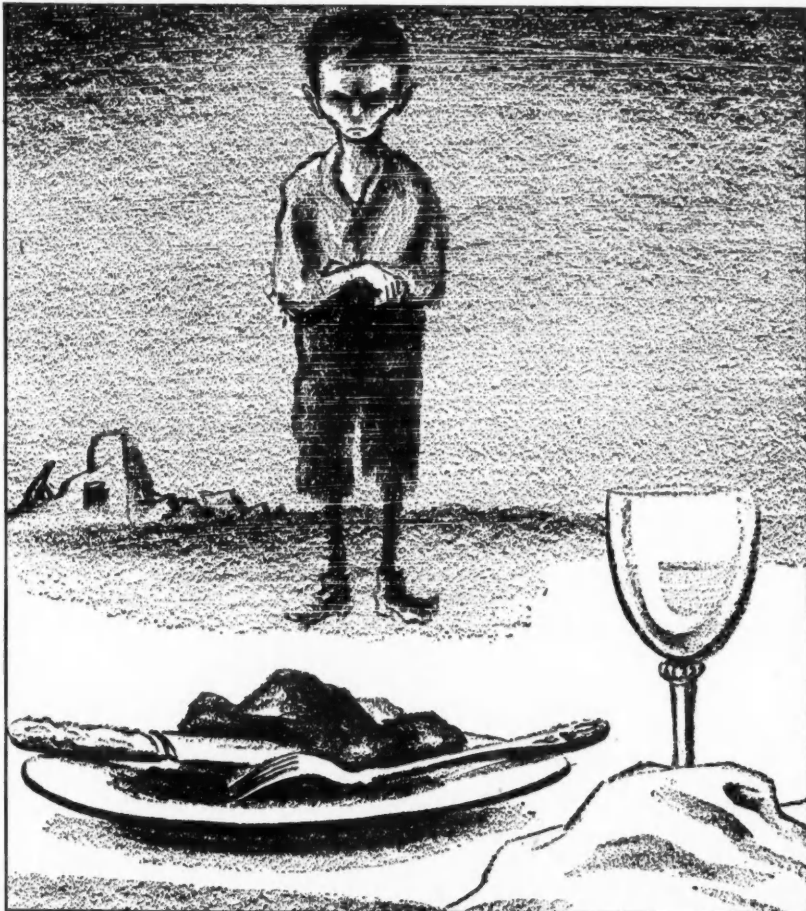
Walter E. Myer

Wilfred Funk, in his recently published book, "The Way to Vocabulary Power and Culture," offers many suggestions for the adding of interest and variety to speech. He speaks, for example, of the overuse of the word "big," and recommends that instead of applying

this term in each of the following cases, one might speak of a tremendous business, a huge house, a massive intellect, a gigantic war, a mammoth cave, a momentous occasion, a colossal statue, a prodigious job, a spacious room, a stupendous disaster, a prodigal waste, a vast desert.

The English language has a word for everything you can see or hear, for every idea which comes to your mind, for every emotion which you may feel. Find these words, become acquainted with them, use them. If you will do this you will be less boring to yourself and to your friends. Your personality will develop. You will be happier, more forceful, more successful.

A college student whom I know has adopted such a program as a hobby. She adds to her possessions at least one new word each day, and, after acquiring it, she puts it immediately to work.



"Had I the food you waste"

FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

World Hunger Crisis

People Everywhere Urged to Help Millions Who Are Hungry or Starving; Extent of Government Aid Debated

IN the February 4 issue of *Look* there are a number of pictures that you would not enjoy. They are not pleasant pictures, for they show a Chinese boy dying of starvation. He had collapsed on the street, was taken, too late, to a medical station.

Look's photographer witnessed many such tragic scenes. The magazine says that in a 10-minute stroll around Hengyang he "counted 104 crumpled bodies on the streets, either dead or in a stupor prior to death."

We do not like a story of this kind. We shrink from the revolting details. But if we turn away without looking, without listening to the report, however gruesome it may be, we shut our eyes to what is happening in the world.

This account came from the Chinese city of Hengyang. It might have come from any of hundreds of cities in China or India. While the most horrible conditions are found among the teeming Asiatic millions, hunger is taking a terrible toll even in Europe, where 150,000,000 persons feel its pangs today, where 20,000,000 children are ill from lack of food, where one-fourth of the infants die before they are two years old.

The magazine *This Week* reports: "Last year alone starvation snuffed out as many lives as six years of World War II. Today the legions of hunger

are steadily increasing their two-to-one majority over the well-fed of the earth." That is what is happening in the world, our world today.

Imagination falters before such facts. Living in comparative comfort as most Americans are, we fail to comprehend their meaning to countless millions of families. What is hunger anyway? Is it a mild longing for a chocolate bar or impatience for dinner? Howard Lutz, writing in behalf of an organization known as "They Need You," gives a different answer. Here is his description, not of the actual starvation which has laid its death-dealing hand upon millions, but nevertheless of real hunger and its effects:

"I was in a group of 34 men who volunteered to help the doctors at the University of Minnesota find out what really happens when you cannot get enough to eat. For six months we were fed only half as much food as we normally eat.

"As we lost weight and grew weaker, the doctors tested us to see how fast our hearts beat, how far we could run before our legs gave out, and how many problems in multiplication we could do in two minutes. These were but a few of the many ways of learning just what starvation

(Concluded on page 2)

Big Business Is National Issue

Congress Studies the Power of Gigantic Corporations in Numerous Industries

AMERICA has always been known as a land of opportunity, a land of free enterprise, a country where a man, if he did not want to work for somebody else, could buy a store, build a shop, or small factory, start in business for himself.

Is America still that kind of country? Are the owners of small concerns able to take care of themselves, or are they being squeezed out by giant corporations, nationwide in scope? Is big business taking over the industries of the nation, throttling opportunity, making a mockery of the term "free enterprise"?

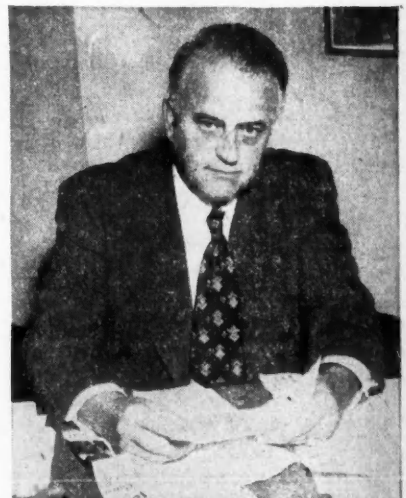
The United States Senate pondered these questions the other day, decided that industrial investigations which have been under way for seven years should be continued, and created a "Small Business Committee" to go on with the work.

The earlier committee, set up in 1940, has been studying trends in American industry. Last year it issued a report which had been prepared for it, describing the activities of huge corporations and the problems of small business men. A similar group in the House of Representatives also published a report showing what has been happening in the business life of the nation. The facts presented in this article are taken from these government reports.

We get back now to our questions. Does a man who hasn't much money have as good a chance to run a business for himself as he would have had earlier in our history? Is his chance becoming slimmer as the years go by?

In the earlier days such opportunities were plentiful. A man wishing to go into business could pick and choose.

(Concluded on page 6)



HARRIS & EWING

Senator Kenneth Wherry, Republican of Nebraska, chairman of the Senate's Small Business Committee.



THE TRAGIC EFFECTS of hunger are shown on the faces of these French children

Starvation in the World

(Concluded from page 1)

does to the human body and mind. The results have helped the government and other agencies make the best use of the food they are sending to starving people abroad.

"There is a big difference between being starved and merely having a good appetite after a day of vigorous outdoor games. A starved person has little interest in anything except food. He has a hard time reading a book. Because it takes energy to laugh, he seldom sees anything funny in the best of jokes.

"Well-fed people like to sing or whistle, but starved people are too tired. A well-fed person uses his hands and various expressions of his face to make what he is saying clear to others, but the man who has been hungry for several months finds it hard to do more than mumble the few words he has to say. Being starved is like becoming very, very old all of a sudden.

Physical Deterioration

"The X-ray pictures showed that hunger had done more than make us thin. Our hearts had shrunk. We found that our arms and legs went to sleep easily because the heart could not pump the blood fast enough. And our hands and feet grew cold; indeed, since our bodies did not have enough fuel, we grew cold all over. Even on warm summer nights, we needed blankets. Just think what that would mean in parts of Finland, Germany, or Northern China, where winters are severe, and many of the people are more starved than we were!

"When we accidentally cut a finger, it took a long time for the wound to heal: our bodies could not get the supplies to make the needed repairs. This was the reason, too, that it was so hard to get rid of a cold. These are only a few of our experiences, but they may give you an idea of what millions of boys and girls and men and women are suffering today and have suffered for so long."

What can we as individuals do to ease the tragic world food situation? The organization "They Need You" offers three suggestions. First of all, avoid waste. Never take more than

you can eat. Always clean your plate.

Secondly, choose your food thoughtfully. Cake, bread, ice cream, and candy require a great deal of butter, wheat flour, cream, and sugar. Try to eat less of these scarce and much needed foodstuffs. Concentrate on potatoes, eggs, fish, poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables, and milk.

Finally, do your part in saving valuable fats. Eat fewer fried foods and see to it that used fats are turned in for salvage.

Beyond this, you can assist by giving your support to one or more of the private agencies now engaged in relief work abroad. Your contribution, however small, will help. Furthermore, if you get together with other young people in your community and school, you can collect a sizeable amount.

If you are particularly interested in helping the young people of other countries, you might want to work through the Save the Children Federation, 1 Madison Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. This agency collects food, clothing, and money for needy foreign youth. It will supply you with the names and addresses of young people abroad if you want to correspond with them or send packages to them as individuals.

Packages can also be sent to individuals outside the United States through Cooperative American Remittances to Europe (CARE), 50 Broad St., New York, N. Y.

Two other agencies concerned chiefly with young people are the Junior Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C., and the World Student Service Fund, 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y. Both these groups emphasize work in restoring schools as well as straight relief.

Of the general relief agencies, these are some of the larger ones: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.; War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Council, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 12th St., Philadelphia, Pa.; Church World Service, 37 East 36th St., New York 16, N. Y.

All these agencies have been working vigorously to ease the sufferings of the world's hungry people. All of them would welcome your contributions, large or small. Write to them at the above addresses for further information about what you can do.

Should the United States government, as well as individuals, continue to take an active part in the relief program? Should it grant additional loans to Italy, Austria, China, Greece, and the numerous other countries which are too poor, without help, to take care of their people?

These questions will be before Congress during the present session. President Truman has sent former President Herbert Hoover to Europe to study food conditions and to find out what the different countries most need.

If we grant loans, the countries receiving the money can use it to buy food in the United States and in other food-producing nations. Of course, we could not supply enough food to wipe out all hunger and starvation in Europe and Asia. We do not have enough to do this in addition to our own requirements. We could, however, without great sacrifice, send sufficient quantities of food to save many of the starving people.

There are strong arguments in favor of doing all that we can. The idea of helping the unfortunate appeals to humane Americans. Furthermore, and this is important, we might, by improving conditions in other countries, help to establish stable conditions and to promote peace.

Hungry people are not likely to be reasonable; they are not patient. They may give way to violence and lawlessness. There is danger that they will turn away from democracy and go in the direction of dictatorship and aggression.

These aspects of the problem will be considered as Congress debates our foreign relief program.

SMILES

A few weeks ago a Boston brokerage house advertised for "a young Harvard graduate or the equivalent." Among the answers was one from a Yale man: "When you speak of an equivalent," he wrote, "do you mean two Princeton men or a Yale man half time?"

★ ★ ★

"Have you finished writing your book on courage?"

"Yes. Just wish I could get up the nerve to take it to a publisher."



"That speech was magnificent. I wish I could give you the raise—really I do!"

"Do you enlarge photographs to life-size?"

"Yes, ma'am. That's our specialty."

"Good. Go to work on this snapshot of the Grand Canyon."

★ ★ ★

Guide: "This castle has stood for 600 years. Not a stone has been touched, nothing altered, nothing replaced."

Visitor: "Good grief, they must have the same landlord we have."

★ ★ ★

"Did he take his misfortunes like a man?"

"Yes; he laid the blame on his wife."

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

AMERICAN newspapers have recently done serious harm to the nation's aviation industry. They have discouraged flying by their screaming headlines of airplane crashes. As aeronautical authorities have pointed out, the safety record of commercial planes was very much better during the past year than it was in 1945. Few people would gain such an impression, however, from the startling headlines and stories in the press.

Newspaper editors and publishers have no desire to ruin the airlines, but they do want to sell papers and they feel that sensational stories about crackups will attract readers. They know that bad news is usually more exciting than good. Now that the war is over and there is no battle news to provide lurid headlines, they have turned to spectacular events like plane crashes to catch the public eye.

But their intentions do not alter the effect of what they do. People read the air accident stories. They begin to think that flying is an invitation to disaster. Many of them decide to do their traveling on the ground instead of in the air. Without meaning to, the newspapers have hurt the aviation industry.

The same sort of thing happens in connection with foreign news. Disagreements among nations make exciting reading, so the papers play them up. Frequently they give an exaggerated picture of the seriousness of a dispute simply to make the story more dramatic.

They have no intention of stirring up bad feeling among nations, but their sensationalism often does just that. People read about one "threatening incident" after another and decide that there is little hope for peace. As their feeling grows, so does the danger of war.

Don't let yourself be swept away by newspaper sensationalism whether it concerns plane crashes or international crises. Look for the facts. In most cases they will show you that the situation is not so black as it has been painted. Day-by-day events are seldom as spectacular as a good story teller can make them seem.



Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"What You Can Do for Peace," by Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium, American Magazine.

You Americans—whether you like it or not—must bear an especially large responsibility for the kind of peace the world has. Some of you may feel that you have done all you can—that you should let the world shift for itself again. But such an attitude on your part would bring despair to people in every other land.

Whatever its shortcomings, the United Nations offers the world's only chance for enduring peace, and it is the duty of everyone to support it. But what, you may ask, can a citizen of Buffalo or Baton Rouge do for

man people are learning to like free discussion. In some parts of the Reich, the Town Meeting program has become so popular that villagers have begun holding similar discussions for the study of local problems.

"Nobody Has To Go Hungry!" by John Lagemann, This Week.

Starvation last year snuffed out as many lives as did six years of World War II. For this shameful situation there are two possible remedies.

First, hungry nations can gradually acquire the modern tools and methods to raise grain and meat for themselves, or they can produce the goods and services to buy it from other people. Either way, however, is too slow.

There is, on the other hand, a method by which we can begin to win the fight for food now. Our laboratories have succeeded in producing mixtures which give complete and balanced nutrition for about \$15 per person yearly. We are learning to get food from materials which, until the present time, have been wasted or unused. Scientists have sought and found new sources of the elements that we need in our diets. A 10-foot yeast vat, for instance, brews as much protein in 10 days as 1,000 acres of cattle pasture can produce in a year.

The sea manufactures food continually—enough, our marine biologists tell us, to support many times the present population of the earth. Much of this food value in the sea is in the form of microscopic plants and animals which now, thanks to new scientific knowledge, we can gather and use.

A contribution of one day's wages by each person in the United Nations would provide a fund large enough to start a program which, by using the information now available to scientists, could abolish hunger.

"Basketball—Our Own Razzle-Dazzle Sport," by Arthur Daley, New York Times.

Basketball is the only native American sport. We learned baseball and football from the British, lacrosse from the Basques, and other favorite games from various nations. But basketball was born here in the United States—in Massachusetts, in 1892.

Basketball's inventor, an undergraduate at Springfield College, was looking for a game to occupy athletes



BASKETBALL'S INVENTOR, Dr. James Naismith and his wife, as they once demonstrated how the game was first played. Their goals were peach baskets

in off seasons. He borrowed some rules from rugby, some from lacrosse, and some from hockey. He intended to nail up boxes around the gallery of the college gym and have the players try to get the ball into one of them. When the time came, no boxes could be found, so the gym janitor substituted peach baskets, thus giving the sport its name. Later, steel hoops replaced the peach baskets.

Basketball was at first considered a "sissy" game, but it has lived that down and now has upwards of 80 million fans in this country alone. There are several reasons for its appeal. It calls for a smaller team than any other group sport. The ball is so big that the spectators never lose sight of it, and the playing area is small enough for fans to keep up with what is going on at every turn.

The use of very tall players is a recent development in basketball. Until recently, seven-foot Bub Kurland of the Oklahoma Aggies held the record. Last year, however, the New Mexico School of Mines team took on Elmore Morganthaler, seven feet one inch tall.

"America's Business Blue Bloods Deny They're Reds," by Lowell Mellett, Washington Star.

This piece is intended to deplore the practice of shouting "Communist" at anybody who disagrees with you or at anybody who makes proposals you do not like. The cry of "Red" is likely to be the first refuge of the person who has no real arguments to offer.

Recently, for example, a financial journal charged that the Committee for Economic Development (CED) was "communistic." To see the absurdity of this, you need only know the men connected with the CED. To begin with, it was organized by Paul Hoffman, president of the Studebaker Corporation.

Besides Mr. Hoffman, CED's directors include: Walter Fuller, publisher of the *Saturday Evening Post*; Eric Johnston, former president of the United States Chamber of Commerce; and Fowler McCormick, president of the International Harvester Company.

These men are the blue bloods of American business and no name-calling can alter the fact. But labelling

them "Reds" may backfire and win friends for communism. Looking at Mr. Johnston and Mr. McCormick, people may begin to think, "If that's communism, communism may not be so bad."

"The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," by Henry L. Stimson, Harper's.

In the summer of 1945, just before we dropped the first atomic bomb, Japan had an army of about five million men in widely separated parts of the Pacific. There was no indication that she was weakening in her determination to fight on rather than accept unconditional surrender. We knew that without the bomb it would take at least 18 months of fighting—and a million American casualties—to bring victory.

In July, we warned Japan that she must surrender or feel the full force of our military power. Her leaders answered that the warning was "unworthy of public notice." A few weeks later we dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

No one can gloss over the fact that the bombs brought death to 100,000 helpless Japanese. But they did end the war. The militarists in Japan lost power and surrender came quickly. The fire raids of our B-29's over Japanese cities stopped.

The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki also accomplished something else. They made it wholly clear that we must never have another war.

"America's Grand Hotel," by Rufus Jarman, Saturday Evening Post.

New York City's fabulous Waldorf Astoria is probably the last super-deluxe hotel America will ever have. Business is booming now, but hotel men say that no establishment as luxurious as the Waldorf can ever again make money in normal times.

At the Waldorf you can live in a suite that costs \$15,000 a year. You can dine at a \$200-a-plate banquet. If you want to cash a check for \$35,000 and have the proper credentials the management will be glad to oblige. Movie stars, visiting kings, delegates to the United Nations, American society queens—all stay at the Waldorf.



Paul-Henri Spaak, President of the UN's General Assembly, tells what we as individuals can do for peace.

peace? The answer is, a great deal. Talk about America's role in the peace with your friends and acquaintances. Your representatives in the UN must know that you are behind them, and they must know what course you want them to take.

Many American communities have projects to promote support of the UN. There are forums, radio broadcasts, discussion groups. Some communities invite UN delegates to visit them and find out the people's views firsthand. This is the kind of thing which is needed to breathe life and force into the UN. You, the people, are the only ones who can provide it.

"Germans Hear Radio Forum of Town Hall Type," New York Herald-Tribune.

After years of hearing nothing but the Nazi Party "line," the German people are at last beginning to find out the pros and cons of public issues. A radio station in Stuttgart now broadcasts a regular program patterned after "America's Town Meeting of the Air."

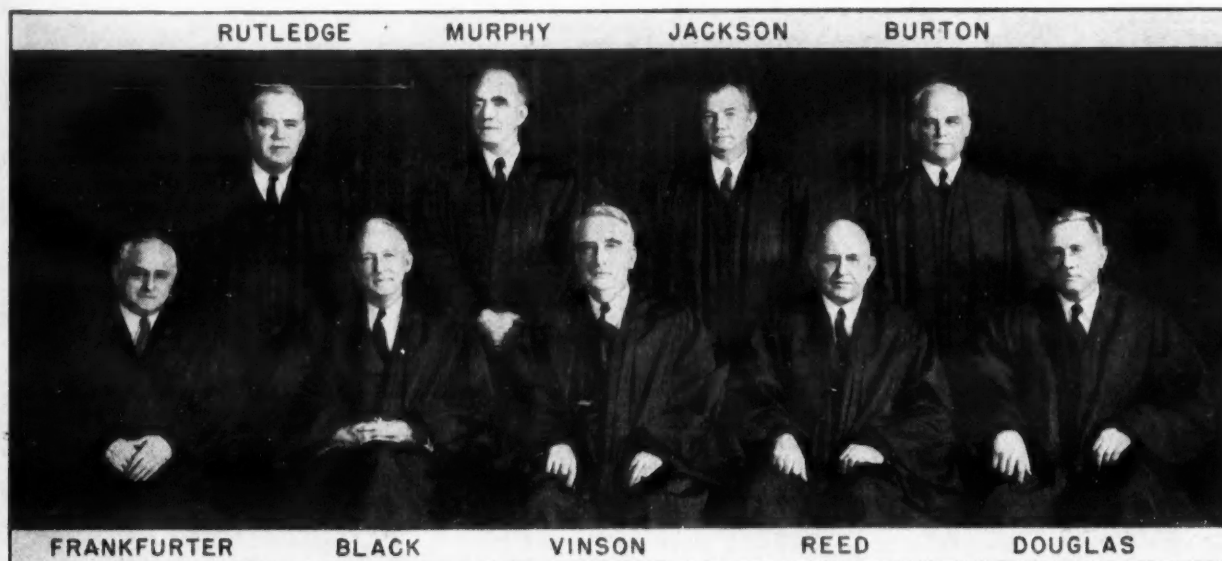
Speakers representing different points of view discuss such questions as "What is free speech?"; "Should all Nazi Party members be denied responsible positions in a rebuilt Germany?"; "Are women capable of holding influential posts in politics?"

Some Germans find it hard to get used to hearing both sides of every question. In the early days of the program, speakers sometimes left the hall when views different from their own were expressed. But many Ger-



Henry Stimson, U. S. Secretary of War during World War II, recently told the story behind the decisions to use the atomic bomb.

The Story of the Week



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT, in their latest group picture: Felix Frankfurter, Hugo Black, Fred Vinson (Chief Justice), Stanley Reed, William Douglas, Wiley Rutledge, Frank Murphy, Robert Jackson, and Harold Burton. There has been less conflict among the justices this year than last, but tension still flares up from time to time.

Freedom for Burma

The 17,000,000 people of Burma may soon be free again after 60 years of British rule. The Burmese have been in revolt against their foreign masters ever since the end of the war. Now Britain has offered them their choice of striking out on their own or becoming a self-governing dominion like Canada.

In April, the people of Burma will elect an assembly to write a new constitution for their country and decide what its future position in the world will be. Like India, Burma will be ruled by an all-native executive council and a British governor until independence negotiations are finished.

Unlike India, however, the Burmese will probably have little trouble charting a course toward freedom. There are few religious differences to complicate the political scene, and in general the people get along well together.

Burma is the home of an ancient and marvelous culture. Some of it survives today in temples and artwork of striking beauty. Although the people know practically nothing of modern science, they enjoy a little higher level of education than do any of the surrounding countries.

Burma is also more prosperous than most of her neighbors. The country is not particularly overpopulated and the land yields plentiful harvests. The farmers in the fertile southern valleys grow so much rice that Burma normally exports more of this valuable food than does any other nation.

Atom "Burglar Alarm"

Scientists have revealed that earth vibrations caused by last summer's Bikini atomic bomb tests were recorded by instruments as far away as Tucson, Arizona. They hope that further development of instruments to detect such blasts will give us a means of learning when any country sets off an experimental atomic explosion.

If an international authority were established to control atomic energy, these instruments would help it to watch for illegal experiments. The knowledge that such tests could not be kept secret might discourage nations from making them.

Several problems in connection with

this "international burglar alarm" remain to be worked out. For instance, it is still difficult to distinguish with certainty between the vibrations of an atomic blast and an earthquake.

Get Out Your Camera!

The Second Annual National High School Photographic Awards—with prizes totaling \$3,500—has just been announced by the Eastman Kodak Company.

Any student in grades from the ninth through the twelfth in American public, parochial, or private schools, may enter the contest. Black and white photographs, taken by the students since May 15, 1946, may be submitted.

Rules and an entry blank may be obtained from the National High School Photographic Awards, 343 State Street, Rochester 4, N. Y. The contest closes May 15, 1947.

Visitors from the South

Twenty-eight Latin American high school students have just arrived in the United States to study home and school life in our part of the Americas. They will wind up their visit by joining young people from the United

States in a forum on "The Americas in the World We Want." The forum will be held in New York City.

While they are here, the students from below the Rio Grande will live with American students in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. This will give them a chance to see how their northern neighbors live, what their studies are like, and how they entertain themselves.

Latin American educational authorities chose these students on a basis of intelligence, personality, and ability to speak English. Some time soon, Latin America will play host to a group of high school boys and girls from this country in the same way.

Corruption in Sports

Sport fans everywhere are worried about the increase of corruption in American athletics. In recent months, the world of sport has been rocked by one scandal after another. Instances of dishonest betting and bribery have cropped up in football, basketball, boxing, and several other sports.

It is reported that some colleges must keep their basketball players isolated on the days of big games so that they cannot receive offers of bribes. In New York, Alvin Paris was recently convicted of trying to pay two professional football players to make "mistakes" which would lose the game for their team. Rocky Graziano, a well-known boxer, reports that last December he was offered \$100,000 to lose a fight.

The situation has grown so bad that many congressmen think an official investigation is needed. There is always some gambling connected with major athletic events, but it has now reached a more serious stage. Senator Joseph O'Mahoney of Wyoming says that the "postwar gambling craze" threatens the reputation of all organized sport.

Hopeful Signs

Many Americans have feared that the early part of this year would see fresh outbreaks of industrial strife. Instead, the record so far indicates that labor and management are working together unusually well.

Take the case of the United Steel

Workers of America and the U. S. Steel Corporation. When the union contract was about to run out, the United Steel Workers said they would strike unless a new agreement could be arranged. Yet when the deadline neared, company and union announced that they would extend the old contract until May 1.

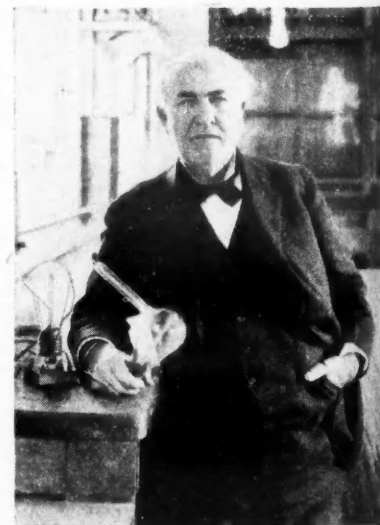
About the same time, the United Automobile Workers and the Chrysler Corporation revealed that they had extended their old contract for 30 days so that negotiations might continue peacefully. Thus major strikes in both the steel industry and the automobile industry were averted.

Another encouraging sign is the fact that the United Steel Workers and U. S. Steel have settled a three-year-old wage dispute. The company will pay out more than 30 million dollars in back pay to cover certain adjustments in the wage scale going back to January 1944.

It is widely hoped that these amicable settlements may be the beginning of better employer-worker relations. They may mean nothing more, however, than that both groups are afraid of congressional action. Big strikes now might spur Congress to enact laws which neither management nor labor wants.

Great American Inventor

Tomorrow, February 11, the nation will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of its greatest inventors—Thomas Edison. Most of us think of Edison as the man who perfected the electric light. This, however, was only one of his accomplishments. He also played an important part in developing the motion picture,



Thomas A. Edison in his laboratory

the phonograph, the storage battery, and hundreds of other devices we use every day.

Edison was largely self-taught. He had only a brief time in school and acquired most of his scientific knowledge by reading and experimenting on his own. Even in early youth when he worked as a newsboy he found time to read and devise mechanical gadgets. A tireless worker, Edison never liked to rely on others for help in his experiments. Most modern inventors collaborate with other experts in big research laboratories. Edison preferred his own workshop and seldom used more than one or two assistants



Great Britain has recently agreed to give Burma its independence



A RECENT PICTURE FROM RUSSIA. Men and women sweeping the streets of Moscow. To what extent this method is used, we do not know.

no matter how big his projects were. He was one of the last of our individual inventive geniuses. It is doubtful whether any other inventor has ever surpassed his achievements.

Withdrawal from China

There are several important questions involved in the present withdrawal of American troops from China. Will the two warring groups in that country, now that they are left alone, make a greater effort to arrive at an understanding, or will they plunge into a long, all-out civil war? What effect will this action have on Russia, since she has frequently criticized us for maintaining troops in China?

It is hoped that our withdrawal may have a sobering effect on the conflicting Chinese groups, and that it will also convince the Soviet leaders we do not intend to build up a Chinese nation hostile to their country. It is also hoped that Russia, in turn, will take similar reassuring steps to show that she has no intention of trying to interfere in Chinese affairs.

There is some criticism of the fact that we are leaving a few military officers behind in China—officers who have been training troops of the Nationalist government. Certain people question the wisdom of our training the troops of a government which American officials have severely criticized. They also say that we are not being impartial when we give military schooling to the forces of only one side in the Chinese civil war.

Labor Fights Intolerance

America's biggest labor union—the United Automobile Workers—is ready to fight racial intolerance wherever it crops up. A new department in the union organization will combat discrimination inside and out of unions.

Any union member—white, Negro, Mexican, Indian, or Jamaican—can appeal to the international union if he feels that he has been treated unfairly because of his race, religion, or nationality. It makes no difference whether he accuses his own local union or the management of his plant.

If the anti-discrimination department finds a local union guilty of racial intolerance, those responsible will be

deprived of their union membership. If management is found practicing discrimination, the union will discuss the problem with plant officials.

Half of the contracts between the UAW and the automobile manufacturers already include clauses which pledge the company not to discriminate in hiring, promoting, or discharging workers. The union is also conducting a general education program to fight racial and religious prejudice throughout the community.

United Nations at Work

The fact that men and nations have different ideas about human rights has always been a source of trouble in the world. This is why the United Nations Economic and Social Council maintains a special Commission to investigate this problem.

The Commission, now meeting at Lake Success in New York, is trying to work out some kind of fundamental code of human rights which all countries can accept. Then it will try to devise a way of guaranteeing the basic freedoms to all people everywhere.

Members of the Commission, which is headed by our delegate, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, know that they have a hard job ahead of them, for there are a great many opposing views to be reconciled. For example, the Russians understand freedom of speech and freedom to work very

differently from the way we do.

Nevertheless, the Commissioners hope to discover some common ground where all points of view can meet. Then they will try, over a period of time, to achieve closer understanding and agreement on the more controversial points.

Religion in India

Although most of the world's great religions preach peace and brotherhood, men often fight more bitterly over religion than anything else. Nowhere is this more tragically clear today than in India.

Over 250 million of India's 389 million people are Hindus. They believe in more than one God, consider the cow and bull sacred, and have a caste system. The caste system divides people into groups according to social positions. Very strict laws govern the activities of those in each caste. The Brahmins at the top are highly privileged, while the "untouchables," at the other end of the scale, are wretched outcasts. Good Hindus believe that violence is evil and never resist force with force.

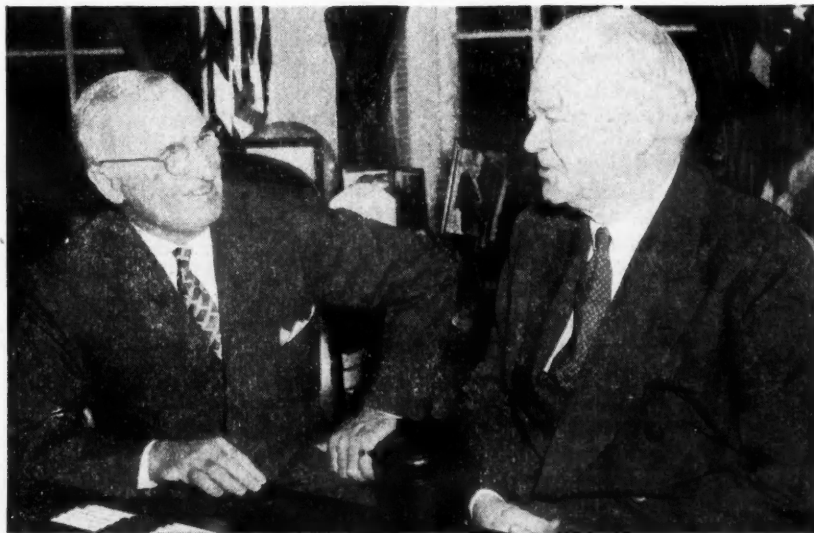
The 92 million Indian Moslems believe in one God and regulate their lives according to the teachings of Mohammed as outlined in the Koran, or Moslem Bible. The Koran lays down rules very different from those the Hindus follow. A Moslem may eat the cow sacred to the Hindu, but he is forbidden pork. Instead of "turning the other cheek," the follower of Mohammed is expected to use "fire and sword," particularly if it will help spread his faith.

These differences of belief have tended to keep India's Hindus and Moslems apart for decades.

Time, Please!

For 14 years there has never been a moment, day or night, when somebody was not calling New York's telephone number Meridian 7-1212. That is the number of the operator who, every 15 seconds, announces the correct time. The microphone into which she speaks is wired to handle as many as 800 incoming calls at once. On an average day, 75,000 calls are received.

On the operator's desk is a light which would go off if no one were listening for the correct time, but that light has never been off since the service was established in 1932.



A PRESIDENT AND AN EX-PRESIDENT. Herbert Hoover has been sent to Europe by President Truman to study food conditions.

Study Guide

Small Business

1. Tell of some of the industries or lines of work in which there are still good opportunities for a man without a great deal of money to have his own business.
2. Name some of the industries in which large corporations predominate.
3. How did great corporations gain more power as a result of the war?
4. What is a monopoly?
5. What is being done in Congress to protect the interests of small business?

Discussion

1. "The people of the United States are better off because of the fact that there are many giant corporations, doing business on a vast scale." Give arguments for or against this statement.
2. "The average American does not have as good a chance to be independent, to work for himself, as people had earlier in our history." Is this true? Explain.
3. What policy do you think the government should adopt toward Big Business?

World Hunger

1. Compare the number of people dying of starvation with the number killed in World War II.
2. In what parts of the world are there the most cases of actual starvation?
3. What is the situation in Europe?
4. How are children being affected?
5. Describe some of the physical and mental effects of hunger.
6. What can each of us in this country do to help relieve the hungry?

Discussion

1. Has your school recently carried on a campaign to help hungry and starving people in other lands? If not, how might such a program be organized, and by what means could funds be raised?
2. Should the United States government continue to make large loans to starving countries? Uphold your position.

Miscellaneous

1. Give several ways in which the Hindu and Moslem religions differ.
2. What other country in Asia has taken preliminary steps toward independence? Why is it thought that this country will have less trouble in setting up a government than India has had?
3. What is the atomic "burglar alarm"?
4. Name three recent events which indicate that we may not have major industrial strife, at least for a few months.
5. List several modern devices based on inventions by Thomas Edison.
6. Why is the Union of South Africa called "one of nature's richest treasure chests"?

Outside Reading

Small Business

"Big Business Has Lacked Vision," by Charles Luckman, *Vital Speeches*, December 1, 1946. The president of a large corporation argues that businessmen can best promote their own welfare by helping improve general economic conditions.

"Monopoly on the March Again," by Vance Johnson, *American Mercury*, December 1946. Recent growth of monopoly in America.

World Hunger

"The World Need Not Go Hungry, If—," by Chester Davis, *New York Times Magazine*, July 14, 1946. Methods by which the world can get enough food.

"Nobody Has to Go Hungry," by John Lagemann, *This Week*, January 26, 1947. How science can conquer famine.

Pronunciations

Bechuanaland—bék' ōh' uh land
Brahmin—brah' min
Kalahari—kah lah hah' ree
Natal—nah tál'
Spaak—spahk

Big Business

(Concluded from page 1)

He didn't have to compete with giants, for there were no giants, no huge corporations, no such thing as Big Business.

Now the openings for the small business man are more limited. He can become a retailer and have his store. He may have to compete with chain stores and mail-order houses, but there are hundreds of thousands of independent merchants and shop keepers. The small business man may still thrive in certain manufacturing industries, such as garment making and lumbering.

In many industries, however, the doors are closing against the small business man. The giants have taken over and the little fellow cannot compete with them. Here are several examples: Practically all automobile manufacturing is carried on in enormous factories, and nine-tenths of all the cars produced in the nation are turned out by the "Big Three"—General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford.

A few years ago, just before the war, 45 large companies owned 92 per cent of all transportation properties, 40 public utility companies (gas, electric, etc.) owned 80 per cent of the property in that field, and four great companies owned nearly two-thirds of the country's steel-producing equipment. In these industries the little fellow hasn't a chance. The giants have the field.

Many Giants

There are many such industries—industries in which small business has hard sledding. In fact more than half of all goods manufactured in the United States are produced in industries dominated by enormous corporations—industries in which the big concerns do most of the business. About two-thirds of the nation's manufacturing facilities, including factories and equipment, are owned by large corporations.

In 1939 a few huge companies—only one-tenth of 1 per cent of all the firms in the country—employed 40 per cent of all the nation's industrial workers. This indicates the extent to which great corporations dominate industry in the United States.

Small business has not, of course, been completely driven from the field in any industry. Everywhere the small firms are far more numerous than the large ones, but they are unimportant in comparison with the big companies.

From the standpoint of small business the situation is growing worse instead of better. The big corporations thrived during the war. The government had to have vast quantities of war materials and supplies, and it had to have them quickly. The huge manufacturing firms were able to furnish the war materials in a hurry. Hence the government bought much more heavily from them than from the small concerns.

In addition, the industrial giants learned from the war how to turn out goods even faster and more efficiently than they could before. They spent millions of dollars in research, money which small companies could not afford to spend. They improved methods of production so that they can turn out better articles at a lower price. They made enormous profits, which adds to their power.

The large corporations profited in another way from their wartime activities. In order to hurry production the government built many war plants with public funds. It was understood that when the fighting was over these factories would be sold to private companies.

Most of them have now been disposed, but the Small Business Committee of the House of Representatives charges that too large a share of them have been sold to big corporations and too small a share to little companies. It says that 279 big corporations have bought more than 70 per cent of the government-built war plants and that Big Business has gained relatively in strength.

The Senate report we referred to earlier says that, as a result of these advantages, "economic concentration will probably be higher in the postwar years than before the war."

Fund reports that, despite the troubles of small business in certain fields, one out of five full-time workers in the United States is self-employed as a business man, farmer, professional man, retail merchant or independent craftsman.

"In addition thousands of competent men have employment as highly paid executives in large business establishments. So long as this situation prevails we need not worry about opportunity and free enterprise in America. It is far better to have the government regulate large corporations and keep them from abusing their power than it would be to break up these great producing concerns."

Those who view with alarm the present trend toward large-scale production, advance these arguments:

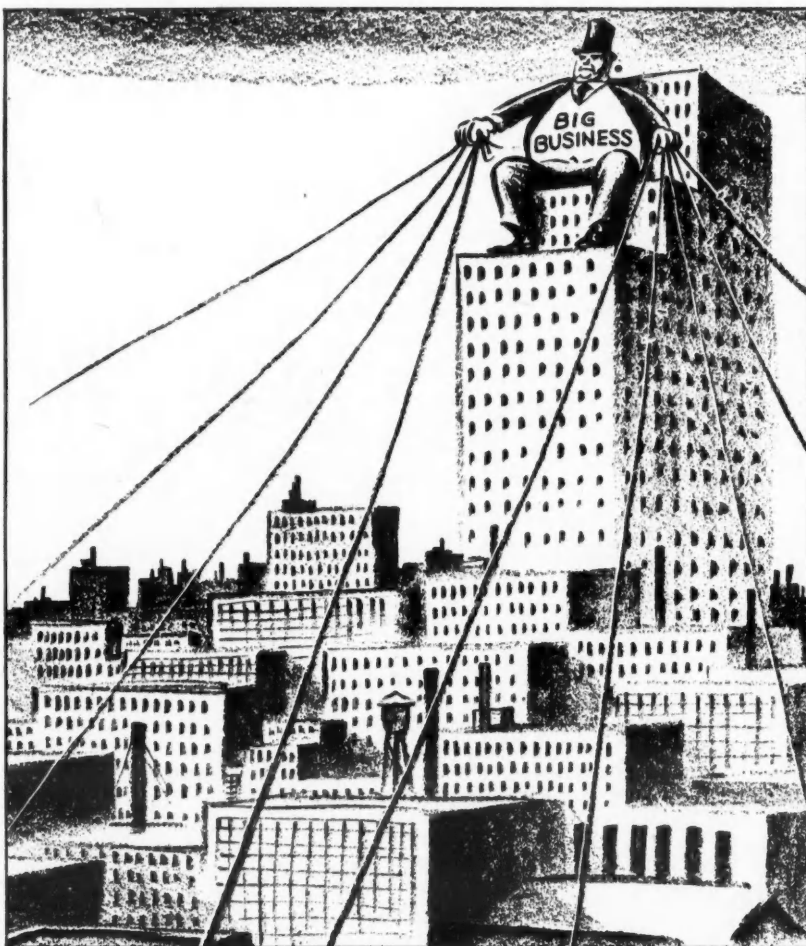
"Even though big companies may be able to produce goods cheaply, this does not mean that they will sell to

ment which the government bought for use during the war, preference should be given to small business establishments rather than to the large ones. By obtaining this remaining equipment, some of which is of fine quality and modern design, the small firms could improve the quality of their work and could compete more successfully with larger industrial concerns of the nation.

"When large corporations undertake to increase their power and to stifle competition by buying the property of competitors or by uniting with other companies, they should be prosecuted for violating the anti-trust laws. The Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice should be given more money to prosecute in such cases. At present, that agency is without sufficient funds to deal effectively with the expensive legal talent employed by the great corporations."

The newly formed Senate Committee will delve into such issues as these. It will continue the investigation of trends in industry. It will study problems of monopoly, of competition, of government regulation, of free enterprise, of Big Business and Little Business. These important problems will probably be widely discussed in and out of Congress during the coming months.

Chinese General Ho Peng-chu is fighting on the Nationalist side again, but who will have him tomorrow is anybody's guess. He was, before the war, a leader in Chiang Kai-shek's army. During the war he supported the Japanese. After Japan's surrender, he once again took command of Nationalist troops, under Chiang. He went over to the Chinese Communists a year ago and became commander of their "Democratic Reconstruction Joint Army." Recently he rejoined Chiang's forces, bringing 50,000 bewildered soldiers with him. The Nationalists heartily welcomed these reinforcements.



DOES BIG BUSINESS control America's economic life as completely as this cartoonist thinks it does? FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Will this be a good thing for the American public? Will people, as a whole, be better off if an increasing amount of the goods we use are produced by large corporations? Many people answer "yes" to that question. They argue in this way:

"Large-scale production is more efficient than small-scale. The large companies, which manufacture goods in great quantity can install the best of modern machinery, which small producers cannot afford. They do their work cheaply, and can reduce prices to consumers. The small company does not have so much to sell and must dispose of each item at a higher price in order to make a profit.

"It would be foolish for the public to insist that more of our manufacturing be done by small, inefficient companies, merely to enable people who haven't much money to possess their own little factories.

"The growth of Big Business does not destroy free enterprise in this country. The Twentieth Century

the public at a low price. They will sell for as much as they can get. When, in any industry, a few giant corporations get most of the business in their own hands they become monopolies. They can control prices and keep them higher than necessary.

"They can be prevented from doing this only if there are, in each industry, many flourishing small concerns which are able to compete with the large companies and thus hold prices down. We should, therefore, encourage small business so that competition may not be destroyed. We should help small business to stay in the field.

"The government is now doing something of that kind. It is lending money to veterans who wish to enter business. Similar assistance should be given to other individuals. Moreover, the government should do more in the way of lending money to small business firms which are in temporary financial difficulty.

"In selling what is left of the factories, machinery, and other equip-

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. An *altercation* (awl'tur-kā'shūn) occurred. (a) change (b) earthquake (c) miracle (d) dispute.

2. The answer was *equivocal* (ē-kwiv'ok'l). (a) of doubtful meaning (b) positive (c) inaudible (d) ridiculous.

3. There were great *disparities* (dis-pair'i-tees) in their living conditions. (a) inconveniences (b) differences (c) causes for discouragement (d) similarities.

4. That is a *pernicious* (per-nish'us) practice. (a) useless (b) good (c) injurious (d) unusual.

5. The land is *arable* (air'ū-b'l). (a) suitable for cultivation (b) dry and rugged (c) sandy (d) good for grazing.

6. You should get rid of that *délusion* (dē-lū'zhūn). (a) stray cat (b) disease (c) hatred (d) false belief.

7. He *verified* (vair'i-fid) the statement. (a) repeated (b) proved (c) forgot (d) doubted.

Readers Say—

(Editor's note: This week we are devoting the entire readers' column to a single letter. We feel many student groups will enjoy the letter because it describes how teen-agers in Dormont, a suburb of Pittsburgh, solved their recreation problem. It also shows what can be accomplished when the adult citizens of a community take an active interest in its young people. The letter was written by a businessman, and was submitted to this column by Eileen Moore, secretary of the teen-age group.)

The spirit of American youth is no better exemplified than in the activities of a teen-age group in Dormont.

Recently a number of high school students decided they lacked wholesome recreation and entertainment. Armed with the courage of their conviction, they formed a club, elected officers and charged them with the job of correcting this deficiency.

First, the group had to secure a permanent meeting place. A successful interview with the Borough Council resulted in the reservation of a pavilion in Dormont Park for the group to use every Friday night.

Problem two concerned entertainment for the growing crowds that congregated at the popular pavilion. A trip to the Civic League produced an appropriation to purchase a juke box.

Problem three was the need for records to feed the juke box. The students lent their own records and bought new ones from their personal allowances. Help also came from the Civic League of Dormont.

Problem four developed unexpectedly as the crowds grew so large that the juke box could no longer be heard. The Dormont Volunteer Fire Department rushed to the rescue with its public address system.

Parents have assisted the club by taking turns as chaperons. They are enthusiastic over the project.

An idea conceived by Dormont's thinking youth thus took root and grew to fruition. Its success is due both to their resourcefulness and to the assistance and cooperation shown by parents, Borough Council, Civic League, Fire Department, School Board, and other benefactors.

The point to be stressed is that, given a helping hand, our youthful citizens can solve the problems peculiar to their age group. If permitted to use their individuality and energy, American youth will find the way—and it will be the right way!



Teen-age centers are popular in many communities



CAPETOWN, a leading city in the Union of South Africa. Its modern buildings indicate the progressive character of this British dominion. Table Mountain, a famous landmark, is in the background.

The Union of South Africa

This British Dominion Is Rich in Minerals and Agricultural Wealth, but Must Meet Demands of Oppressed Groups

THE King and Queen of England and the two princesses are seeing a unique part of the British Commonwealth during their present tour of the Union of South Africa. Rich, colorful, and strange, this distant land, about a sixth the size of the United States, is a leading dominion.

Its chief importance stems from the fact that it is one of nature's richest treasure chests. Gold, diamonds, and platinum pour from the South African mines in fabulous abundance. The country produces 40 per cent of the world's gold and 75 per cent of its diamonds.

Besides its wealth of precious stones and metals, the Union of South Africa has other valuable resources in its mine fields. Sizable quantities of coal, asbestos, chrome, tungsten, antimony, and copper are also produced.

Yet in spite of South Africa's many minerals, the large majority of her people are farmers and stock raisers. In most of the four principal provinces which make up the Union, both land and climate are favorable to farming.

In the northern part of the country, where the Orange River and Transvaal provinces are located, stretches a high plain or *veldt* flanked by mountains. Here the farmers raise a great deal of livestock, and dairying is an important industry. Sheep from this area account for seven per cent of the world's supply of wool.

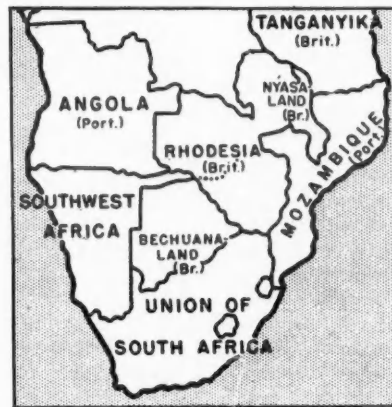
Southeast of the Orange River and Transvaal provinces lies Natal, which is South Africa's best farming region. The land is flat in most parts of Natal and the soil exceedingly fertile. The climate resembles that of Southern California.

The black soil of Natal yields enough corn, sugar cane, potatoes, and other food crops to feed most of South Africa's people. Even so, the total output of agricultural products is smaller than it might be, largely because the people do not use modern methods.

The Cape Colony, in the extreme south of the country, is less productive than any of the other three big

provinces. Part of this section includes the barren Kalahari desert, a wasteland as grim as the Sahara.

South Africa's inhabitants represent a variety of races and national origins. There are a little over 2,000,000 white people, most of them descendants of the Dutch "Boers" who were the pioneer European settlers in South Africa a hundred years ago. Indians and other Asiatics number about 800,000, and there are over 7,000,000 native Negroes.



South Africa's mixed population is at the root of most of her sorest problems. Although the white people in the country make up only about 21 per cent of the population, they control its government and economic life.

The only way they have been able to do this has been by ruthless discrimination against people of other races. Government posts and all the best jobs in business and industry are reserved for white people.

Recently, however, both the Asiatics (mostly Indians) and the Negroes have been demanding better treatment from the white population of South Africa. As a result, they have gained certain benefits but they are still far behind in opportunities and privileges.

Pretoria is the capital of the Union of South Africa. Other important cities include Johannesburg, Cape-town, and Durban.

Monthly Test

Note to teachers. This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for January 13, 20, and 27, and February 3. The answer key appears in this week's issue of *The Civic Leader*.

Directions for students. After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write "true" if the statement is true and "false" if the statement is false.

1. The budget which President Truman presented to Congress calls for a large reduction in tax rates for the next fiscal year.
2. The War and Navy Departments have agreed upon a plan for unification of our country's armed forces.
3. At the present time the Communists are the strongest political group in France.
4. The new Chinese constitution was recently put into effect with the full approval of both the Nationalist and Communist leaders.
5. Jewish immigrants to Palestine have promoted the growth of new industries in that country.
6. The government of France has granted full independence to Indo-China.
7. More crimes were committed in the United States during 1946 than during any previous year in our history.
8. The present government of Argentina is generally considered to be dominated by communist influences.
9. A large number of Puerto Ricans have migrated to the United States since the end of the war.
10. One of the most serious problems facing the Canadian people today is lack of good farm land.
11. During the past few years the number of divorces granted each year in the United States has sharply declined.
12. Russia has agreed to the idea of having continuous UN inspection of each country's production of atomic weapons.
13. In recent months American military forces have tested their war equipment during maneuvers in the northern regions of Alaska and Canada.
14. President Truman has expressed his opposition to plans for compulsory military training in peacetime.
15. During World War II, Finland allied herself with Germany.
16. The people of the Scandinavian countries are among the best educated in the world.
17. Both the Premier and the President of France are Socialists.
18. The British government has withdrawn its troops from Egypt and granted full independence to the Egyptian people.
19. In Poland's recent election, candidates supported by the Communists won a sweeping victory.

For each of the following questions and incomplete statements, write the number of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1. What country has recently requested military bases in Spitsbergen? (1) Britain, (2) France, (3) Russia, (4) Poland.
2. Republican members of Congress have criticized President Truman's budget plans because they (1) do not call for a large reduction in taxes, (2) will add greatly to the national debt, (3) will not balance income and expenses, (4) give too little money to the Army and Navy.
3. Argentina's "Five Year Plan" provides for (1) complete freedom of education, (2) a reduction in Argentina's military forces, (3) a large military and industrial expansion program, (4) strict limitations on the powers of the president.
4. Under the new French constitution, real executive power rests with (1) the President, (2) the Premier, (3) the Council of the Republic, (4) the Assembly.

(Concluded on back of this page.)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

5. Many thousands of American workers are now suing their employers regarding (1) payment of wartime bonuses, (2) overtime pay (3) refund of social security payments, (4) portal-to-portal pay.

6. General George C. Marshall recently returned from a special mission to what country? (1) Russia, (2) China, (3) Argentina, (4) France.

7. What is the largest single item of expense in the budget of the national government at the present time? (1) loans to foreign countries, (2) interest on the national debt, (3) public works, (4) military expenses.

8. Which of the following countries of northern Europe suffered least from the war? (1) Norway, (2) Sweden, (3) Denmark, (4) Finland.

9. Which of the following statements about Canada is *not* true? (1) It has rich mineral resources. (2) Its population is more than half as great as that of the United States. (3) It exports more wheat than any other country. (4) Hundreds of new factories were built in Canada during the war.

Identify the following men who are prominent in the news. Select the proper description from the list given below, and write the capital letter which precedes it opposite the number of the name it identifies.

1. George C. Marshall
2. Juan Peron
3. Joseph Martin, Jr.
4. Sam Rayburn
5. Thomas L. Stokes
6. W. L. Mackenzie King
7. Joseph Ball
8. Trygve Lie
9. Vincent Auriol
- (A) Prime Minister of Canada
- (B) President of Brazil
- (C) American newspaper columnist
- (D) Leader of Democrats in the U. S. House of Representatives
- (E) U. S. Ambassador to Russia
- (F) Speaker of the House of Representatives
- (G) President of France
- (H) Norwegian statesman who is Secretary-General of UN
- (I) U. S. Secretary of State
- (J) British Prime Minister
- (K) President of Argentina
- (L) U. S. Senator from Minnesota

In each of the following items, select the word which most nearly defines the word in *italics* and write its number on your answer sheet.

1. A *decade* is a period of (1) 5 years, (2) 10 years, (3) 25 years, (4) 50 years.
2. The idea was *repugnant* to them. (1) delightful, (2) amusing, (3) exciting, (4) distasteful.
3. A *cogent* argument is (1) convincing, (2) false, (3) half true, (4) prejudiced.
4. The man was filled with *apprehension*. (1) anger, (2) fear, (3) joy, (4) enthusiasm.
5. To *collaborate* means (1) to work very hard, (2) to quarrel with your associates, (3) to work cooperatively with others, (4) to loaf on the job.

Answer the following questions on your answer sheet.

1. If President Truman should die in office, who would become President?
2. Name the seaport in Manchuria which Russia has closed to vessels of other nations.
3. What is the capital city of Argentina?
4. In what French colony is the city of Saigon located?
5. Which member of President Truman's cabinet resigned in January?

Careers for Tomorrow - - The Photographer

ONE hundred years ago photography was in its infancy, but today the profession makes a vital contribution to modern business, science, medicine, and our general enjoyment of life.

Important as the profession has become, it employs relatively few actual photographers. Outside the motion picture industry, not more than 75,000 people, most of them men, are engaged in this work. Even though men predominate, photography does offer good opportunities for women.

The photographer must, first of all, know how to handle a camera expertly. He must also be competent in dark-room processing, lighting, and the other allied techniques necessary to making good pictures.

Artistic ability is an asset to the cameraman. Under some circumstances, he must be able to take an artist's sketch and produce a photograph which captures the effect of the drawing. He must know how to flatter a person or product in taking a picture. The photographer must also have a keen eye for composition.

A clear understanding of the processes by which photographs are reproduced is another essential for a good cameraman. This knowledge enables him to make prints that can be reproduced satisfactorily, whether they are used in books, newspapers, magazines, or advertising bulletins. Since commercial photography is closely allied to advertising and editorial work, the photographer must often work long and hard to meet press deadlines.

A high school student interested in

photography may start his career immediately. He may study photographs taken by others, and begin to take pictures himself in the hope of having them published. High school annuals rely on students for many of their pictures. Local newspapers and national trade publications occasionally accept free-lance photographs submitted to them by students. Such contests as the National High School Photograph Awards (see page 4) offer



The photographer has his troubles, too

young camera enthusiasts a chance to exhibit their work.

College training is not necessary for a career in photography, but it may be helpful. In high school a good background may be obtained from courses in English, journalism, art, chemistry, physics, machine shop, printing, salesmanship, economics, and business practice. The college course may include similar subjects, as well as adding the study of marketing, psychology, and photography.

Part-time or summer work in an established photographic studio offers

excellent preparation for this career. Any job—that of errand boy, studio assistant, handyman, darkroom technician, receptionist, or stenographer—is worth doing for the experience.

Men and women in the field usually specialize in one or more of the major types of photography—advertising, illustration, news, fashion, industrial, medical and scientific, portrait photography and others. Television is now opening additional opportunities.

The majority of jobs in photography are in the larger communities. However, most small communities have their own studios; and newspapers and industries in smaller places are beginning to hire their own cameramen.

Breaking into established photographic studios or into newspaper or magazine work is difficult. Free-lance work offers one approach, and work as a technical or general assistant offers another. The free-lancer will usually support himself by taking another kind of job, and will develop his skill as a photographer on the side.

Beginners in the field of photography, if steadily employed, may expect to earn about \$30 to \$35 per week. The majority of experienced cameramen earn under \$5,000 a year, although quite a few of them earn up to \$7,000. A relatively small number of the top-notch photographers make \$10,000 or more a year.

Information about sources of training in photography can be obtained from the Camera Club Service, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester 4, New York.

Historical Backgrounds - - by David S. Muzzey

DURING the early years of our history, little thought was given to the conservation of natural resources. The American continent was so abundantly supplied with rich farm land and dense forests that no one foresaw the time when these resources might be used up.

The early settlers cultivated the same fields year after year until they would no longer yield good crops. Then they abandoned their worn out farms and moved on to fresh land along the frontier.

Some early Americans, such as Thomas Jefferson, experimented with rotation of crops and other scientific farming methods, but the average farmer gave little thought to such matters.

As a result, much of the land in the eastern states was worn out by the early 1800's. Many people in this region were forced to move westward to find new land.

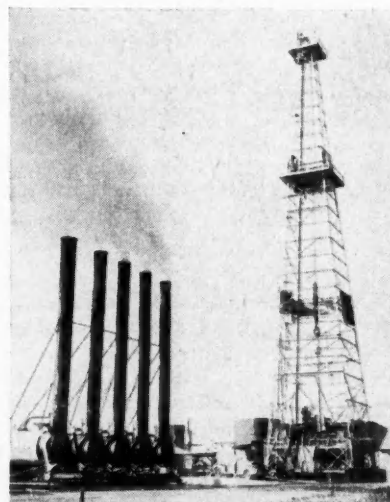
Dense forests covered nearly half the area east of the Mississippi River in the colonial days. These forests were a valuable source of lumber for building houses and ships, and for charcoal, potash, and naval stores.

The early settlers cut down the best trees as fast as they could with their crude axes and hand saws. Farmers in search of new land deliberately burned or "ringed" the trees to clear the way for planting crops. No thought was given to the future, for the supply of wooded land seemed inexhaustible.

By 1930, after three centuries of

such practice, about half the forests in America had been cut down or burned over. The results were tragic. Floods and soil erosion began to take their toll of farm land. Rich top soil which had been held in place by tree roots was washed away during heavy rains. Trees were cut faster than they could be replaced by new growth, and our supply of good lumber dwindled.

In the early 1900's, when President Theodore Roosevelt was in the White House, steps were taken to stop this destruction of America's forests and the loss of rich soil which could not be replaced. Forest rangers protected the woods from fire, and mil-



Our oil resources were seriously drained by demands of the recent war

lions of new trees were planted. For many years agricultural colleges have trained farmers in conservation.

While this progress was being made in conserving forests and farm land, another resource—oil—was being used up at a rapid rate. In the years before the Civil War, the value of oil for lighting and for lubricating machinery was not understood. "Rock oil," as it was called, was sold as a medicine. But after the discovery that oil could be used to light lamps, a great demand for it arose.

Since the introduction of the motor car and the airplane, oil and gasoline have been used in enormous quantities. Before the war we were consuming one billion gallons of oil each year. New petroleum fields were discovered in Texas, Oklahoma, California, and in other parts of the country. At present, however, we are using up our reserves more rapidly than new fields are being found.

Whether our oil supplies will be near exhaustion in 30 or 35 years, as some experts believe, or whether they will last much longer than this, it is generally agreed that effective conservation measures should be maintained. Oil companies are now devising new methods to avoid waste and to conserve our supplies.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (d) dispute; 2. (a) of doubtful meaning; 3. (b) differences; 4. (c) injurious; 5. (a) suitable for cultivation; 6. (d) false belief; 7. (b) proved.